

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

others, and this, I think, was because of his great purity of disposition."¹ Giannozzo, the brother of Franco Sacchetti, was a converted spendthrift and wastrel; a poet of no mean order in the vernacular, whose *laudi* were being sung by the people in their processions, when deprived of the sacrifice of the Mass by the papal interdict. One of these compositions, *O divina carità*, reads like a rendering into verse of a letter of Catherine's own; another, beginning *Maria dolce che fat*, frequently attributed to others, is a classic of its kind.² He had been one of those young men who had joined the confraternities that met at Fiesole at the beginning of the interdict; and, although Marchionne Stefani denounces him (in the light of later events) as "a man of evil sort and a hypocrite," there can be no doubt of the sincerity of his conversion. Unfortunately, he continued to fish in the troubled waters of political intrigue, and at the same time to assail his political opponents with poetical lampoons, and his subsequent fate was one of the many tragedies that saddened Catherine's life.

In the meanwhile, Sarzana had been chosen as the place of the peace conference, under the presidency of Bernabo Visconti. The Pope was represented by Jean de k Grange, the Benedictine Cardinal of Amiens, and two other French prelates of the Curia. Venice, France, Naples, and the adherents of the league sent ambassadors; Otho of Brunswick attended in person. The Florentine procurators—Pazzino Strozzi, Alessandro dell' Antella, and Benedetto Alberti, with two of the Eight, Andrea Salviati and Simone Peruzzi—had started on March 3. All seemed going well. On March 20, Strozzi, Alessandro dell' Antelk, and Andrea Salviati, came back to Florence to confer with the Signoria, returning to the Cardinal and Bernabo on the 22nd.³ The delegates had already agreed on the amount

¹ *Legenda*, III. i. I I (§ 341).

² Cf. F. Palermo, *Rime di Dante Akghien e dt Giannozzo Sacchetti*, pp. ciii.-cxxx. ; Marchionne Stefani, Lib. X. rubr. 821 ; O. Gigli, *Sermoni Evangehici e Letters di Franco Sacchetti*, doc. i.

³ *Anonimo Fiorentino*, p. 351.